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Title:

Ludwig van Beethoven
String Quartets op. 59,1
and F major (after the Piano
Sonata op. 14,1)

Musician:

Leipziger Streichquartett

Date of Release: 11/96

Number of CD's: 1

Order Number:
MDG 307 0707-2

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Midlife Renaissance

The two string quartets recorded here are central in two ways: Beethoven composed them during his middle and at the height of his creative powers. The Leipzig String Quartet's interpretations op. 59,1 and op. 14,1 offer new insights into the genius and his unique musical language.

Transplant Operation

„The desire to transplant piano pieces to stringed instruments is something that would do well to cease!“ Although Beethoven had a dim view of piano-string transplant operations, he ended up performing one on his Piano Sonata op. 14,1 when urged to do so. It was thus that it became of his middle quartets, works known for their uncompromising radicality.

Beethovenian Revolution

In fact, their radicality was often something of a stumbling block for Beethoven's original audiences and interpreters. His structural innovations were on the order of the Schönbergian revolution of the early twentieth century. The traditional sonata form yielded to free association, and rhythm gained new dominance. The cellist for the premiere of op. 59,1 flew into a rage and kicked his part around on the floor.

Concerted Action

The Leipzig String Quartet is now in the process of recording its extensive repertoire exclusively for MDG - a project that has met with great resonance in the international music press. The outstanding ensemble is also very active in the concert world: Beethoven String Quartet Series being presented in European cities this fall with today's leading ensembles came about as a result of its initiative.

Taking Stock

Ludwig van Beethoven, String Quartet op. 131 and Franz Schubert, Quartet Movement D 703
MDG 307 0550-2

Johannes Brahms, Clarinet Quintet op. 115 (with Karl Leister, coalirent) and String Quartet op. 51,2
MDG 307 0719-2

Anton Webern, Complete String Quartets and Piano Quintet
MDG 307 0589-2

Franz Schubert, Complete String Quartets. So far published: vol.1-5
MDG 307 0601-2 to 307 0605-2